

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

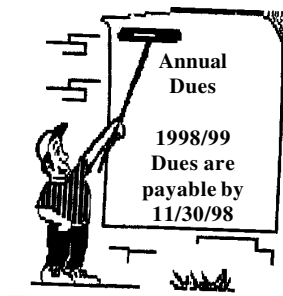
VOLUME 1 - NUMBER 3

FALL EDITION 1998

Terry W. McManuels 1673 Kilt Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 479-2261

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES

In the Special Post Reunion Newsletter, you will find the results of discussions held during the 1998 Business Meeting. One of the topics discussed was the issue of Association finances and membership dues. A motion was made and carried that we collect \$20.00 per year in membership dues to offset some of the expenses of the Association. These expenses include the cost of producing and mailing the newsletters, long distance phone calls made when trying to locate new members and the cost of our internet site. These funds will also be used to start to reduce the deficit from our first reunion. As you can see from the financial statement in the business meeting notes in the Post Reunion Edition, our expenditures far exceeded our income in Peoria. There will be additional funds generated from the sales of hats and coffee mugs during the next few months, but I would like to see our deficit eliminated in three years or less.



Assuming that we continue to grow, it is my hope that the dues can be reduced to \$15.00 per year once the deficit is eliminated, estimated to take about two or three years. The general consensus at the Peoria Reunion was that we should continue to hold a reunion each year. I am obviously prepared to make this happen. I have already started contract negotiations with our hotel for the August, 1999 reunion in the greater Washington DC area.

The continued success of the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association depends upon your support. Some members paid their dues when we were in Peoria. To determine if your 1999 dues are paid, check the enclosed cover letter that accompanies this newsletter. Your dues status is indicated at the bottom along with the information that is currently in my data base. The enclosed Post Reunion Newsletter (Business Meeting Notes) lists the membership criteria for regular members that are dues payers and for those that are not.

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Volume 1 - Number 3 Special Combined Edition

This issue of Gunboat Riders is almost on schedule. In that I want to distribute the Special Post Reunion Issue as soon after the reunion as possible, I have included it with this issue to save the Association the cost of two separate mailings. The Mail Bag is being put in this issue only.

1999 REUNION SURVEY

Enclosed you will find our 1999 Reunion survey for Washington, DC. The survey requests basic information that will be of great assistance in making plans for our 1999 reunion to be held **August 11 - 15, 1999 in the greater Washington DC area at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel.**

I am again planning the reunion with the following itinerary. Wednesday will be an early check-in day, hospitality will open at noon and all meals will be on your own. Thursday will include a day tour with lunch included, dinner will be on your own. Friday will have a day tour including lunch, Friday evening will feature a buffet dinner. Saturday morning will be the business meeting followed by a short afternoon tour that will probably not include lunch, and Saturday evening will be the Banquet Dinner.

If you feel right now that you will definitely make the reunion, barring some catastrophe, give me a **100% Sure**. If you feel that you are going to give it your best shot, but reserve the right to change your mind, give me a **75% Sure**. If you would really like to come but have a few obstacles in your way to work out, give me a **50% Sure**. If you know that you will not be able to make this reunion, give me a **Can't Attend**. Regardless of your answers today, you can always change your mind at a later date. **Remember, it's a survey, not a commitment.** Please take a moment to complete this survey and return it by **November 30, 1998.**

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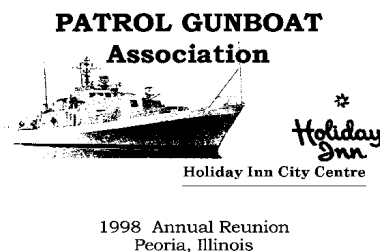
Patrol Gunboat Association

"COMMEMORATIVE BALL CAPS AND COFFEE MUGS"

I initially ordered 250 ballcaps from Eagle Crest INC in Jacksonville, FL. These are custom embroidered, "Made In America" ball caps, identical in quality to the ones ordered for ships and shore commands by the Navy Exchange. These hats were given to each crewmember who purchased \$20.00 in raffle tickets for the Saturday Night Raffle Drawing. I have a few remaining ballcaps that can be purchased for \$15.00 dollars each plus shipping, as long as they last.



I also have a few coffee mugs left from the reunion. These cups have a "Watermark" of a PG on the front with the names of all 17 Patrol Gunboats listed on the reverse. The coffee mugs are \$5.00 each. Please include \$3.00 Priority Mail shipping. This will cover shipping for one hat, one coffee mug, or one of each. Make your check payable to Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association.



USS ASHEVILLE (PG-84)
 USS GALLUP (PG-85)
 USS ANTELOPE (PG-86)
 USS READY (PG-87)
 USS CROCKETT (PG-88)
 USS MARATHON (PG-89)
 USS CANON (PG-90)
 USS TACOMA (PG-92)
 USS WELCH (PG-93)
 USS CHEHALIS (PG-94)
 USS DEFIANCE (PG-95)
 USS BENICIA (PG-96)
 USS SURPRISE (PG-97)
 USS GRAND RAPIDS (PG-98)
 USS BEACON (PG-99)
 USS DOUGLAS (PG-100)
 USS GREEN BAY (PG-101)

NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

Following is a list of new members that have been located since the last newsletter was published.

Name	Ship	Contacted
Alsbrooks, Ron L.	(Grand Rapids)	09/02/1998
Bayer, Charles J.	(Asheville)	08/03/1998
Beckstrom, Donald R.	(Antelope)	09/25/1998
Beninghove, Stephen F.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
Bly, Leonard J.	(Green Bay)	06/09/1998
Boortz, Brian D.	(Ready)	06/16/1998
Brown, Robert C.	(Antelope)	07/08/1998
Bruce, Cecil E.	(Asheville)	07/16/1998
Burrell, David W.	(Tacoma)	06/17/1998
Carroll, Thomas	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
Diskin, William M.	(Antelope)	07/03/1998
Dixon, Kent	(Grand Rapids)	06/08/1998
Ferini, Andre	(Surprise)	06/11/1998
Fiore, Michael W.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
French, Timothy A.	(Asheville)	06/16/1998
Goad, William H.	(Ready)	06/20/1998
Gometz, John W.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
Goslin, John H.	(Chehalis)	08/28/1998
Goslin, John H.	(Douglas)	08/28/1998
Green, Felton R.	(Antelope)	08/08/1998
Greig, John R.	(Defiance)	07/16/1998
Griffin, Michael H.	(Douglas)	06/22/1998
Guelpa, Ed	(Ready)	06/20/1998
Gunter, Bobby G.	(Crockett)	08/25/1998
Hirvela, Michael L.	(Chehalis)	08/03/1998
Holter, Hubert J.	(Antelope)	06/13/1998
Hotten, Darrel B.	(Surprise)	07/22/1998
Hupp, Elzie L.	(Asheville)	08/03/1998
Jackman, Daniel K.	(Crockett)	08/27/1998
Jacobson, Daniel C.	(Antelope)	08/03/1998
Jarvis, James N.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
Jones, Byron K.	(Canon)	07/07/1998
Kay, Harold E.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
Keller, William C.	(Ready)	09/24/1998
Kennedy, Joseph T.	(CCR THREE)	09/10/1998
Kiewatt, Gerald	(Grand Rapids)	09/02/1998
Klein, Terrance J.	(Antelope)	09/07/1998
Kobylk, Steven J.	(Gallup)	07/22/1998
Larosa, Edwin A.	(Green Bay)	06/30/1998
Lockway, George H.	(Crockett)	06/30/1998
Lowe, William	(Defiance)	07/09/1998
Madaras, David M.	(Asheville)	06/16/1998
Madaras, David M.	(Green Bay)	06/16/1998
Manley, Eugene	(Chehalis)	08/27/1998
Manley, Eugene	(Welch)	08/27/1998
Manning, John	(Beacon)	09/22/1998
McClelland, Mike	(Antelope)	07/02/1998
McFall, Jack R.	(Beacon)	07/29/1998
Metcalfe, John	(Chehalis)	08/28/1998
Mills, Roy	(Chehalis)	08/29/1998
Musch, Mike R.	(Asheville)	06/25/1998
Nagasawa, Isamu	(Antelope)	06/13/1998
Oaks, Jack L.	(Graham County)	09/03/1998
Oliver, Carl	(Surprise)	06/13/1998
Pick, Michael	(Welch)	07/06/1998
Reale, Christopher P.	(Ready)	06/20/1998
Rintamaki, Charles M.	(Chehalis)	07/23/1998
Root, Dale E.	(Ready)	06/19/1998
Schmidt, Charles R.	(Gallup)	06/22/1998
Sheldon, David	(Tacoma)	09/10/1998
Stowell, Maurie	(Welch)	09/06/1998
Taylor, Daniel L.	(Ready)	06/21/1998
Thomas, Frazier K.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
Thurlow, Robert S.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998
Tyler, Wayne	(Ready)	06/22/1998
West, Don E.	(Asheville)	07/19/1998
Wiegand, Terrence M.	(Gallup)	08/24/1998
Wilborn, William D.	(Ready)	09/22/1998
Winegar, Floyd E.	(Green Bay)	06/01/1998

WE ARE ON THE INTERNET

I have put together an Internet Web Site / Home Page for the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association. The Internet Address is:

<http://members.visi.net/~macs/index.html>

I have placed a separate page for each ship, as well as Squadron Staff's and the Graham County on the Web Site. There is also a muster list of crewmembers that I have located as well as a missing persons page. I now have included an album with photographs from Peoria. If you have any pictures of the ships that you think would look good on the internet, please send them to me in either GIF or JPG format, or you can send original photographs.

Patrol Gunboat Association

REUNION PHOTO ALBUM

I have put some photographs in our Web Site that were taken at the reunion. As you browse through the index page, you will note that I have removed all of the Pre-Reunion information for 1998 and replaced it with the photo album. I would appreciate it, if anyone has some good pictures from the reunion, to select a few of the ones that you like best and send them to me for inclusion on our web site. If possible, please include some information on each picture such as when and where it was taken and if possible, the names of anyone in the picture.

You will also note that I have started the pages for the 1999 Reunion scheduled for August, 1999 in the Washington, DC area. I will post additional information as it becomes available.

1998 50/50 DRAWING

In the special edition newsletter, I mailed out 12 tickets for those who wanted to participate in the Association 50 - 50 drawing that was held following the Saturday Night Banquet. We continued to sell 50 - 50 tickets at the reunion up until the Saturday Business Meeting. As a result of those ticket sales, we raised \$1120.00 for the Association. Of that, \$560.00 was awarded as prizes at the drawing. The remainder will be used to help cover some of the expenses such as Hospitality Room, Entertainment, Raffle Table Items and a myriad of other expenses necessary to put on the reunion. The winners of the 50 - 50 drawing were:

First Place: Ed Wright, USS Antelope \$280.00

Second Place: Robert Mason, USS Ready \$168.00

Third Place: Paul McGurghan, USS Crockett \$112.00

A special thanks to those who purchased tickets because, without these funds, it would be difficult to put on a high quality reunion. We will again have a 50 - 50 drawing at next year's reunion. Those wishing to purchase tickets for the 1999 drawing may do so at any time by sending me a check or money order for the desired number of tickets along with sufficient address labels for me to place on them. Tickets will again be \$10.00 for twelve tickets or \$1.00 each. Make your check or money order payable to the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association. Remember, the winners need not be present at the drawing.

1999 50/50 DRAWING

Included in this Special Edition Newsletter is your first opportunity to purchase these special 50 - 50 tickets. **You will note that I have enclosed only one (1) full ticket and eleven (11) stubs. This enables us to save postage and printing costs, funds that will be put to good use at the 1999 reunion.** Please complete the left portion of the ticket and the eleven stubs and return them to me along with your check or money order made payable to **PATROL GUNBOAT REUNION ASSOCIATION**. If you wish, you can use mailing labels on the stubs to save writing. Additional tickets for the 1999 drawing can be purchased by sending me a check in the amount of \$10.00 for each 12 tickets to be purchased. Just send some additional address labels for the tickets and we will put them on. At \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00, you can help to **SUPPORT OUR REUNION ASSOCIATION**. Tickets will be sold throughout the year with the drawing of the winners following the Saturday Banquet.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

When I started this project, I had only four names of former crewmembers. As the list grew, some folks told me that they really didn't want their phone numbers published for fear of winding up on commercial mailing lists. I have honored this request and I will continue to do so. As I said in the beginning, unless told otherwise, the names and addresses of former crewmembers would be available to the Association following the first reunion. At this time, I am preparing an Association directory that will list the names and addresses of all crewmembers that I have contacted so far. This directory will be sent to all crewmembers in the data base sometime after the first of the year. If you prefer that your address not be published in the directory, please advise me as soon as possible. This directory will be mailed to former crewmembers only.

CAPTAINS CHOICE

Long ago, when sailing ships ruled the waves, a captain and his crew were in danger of being boarded by a pirate ship. As the crew became frantic, the captain bellowed to his first mate, "Bring me my red shirt!" The first mate quickly retrieved the captain's red shirt, which the captain put on and led the crew to repel the pirate boarding party. Later that day the lookout screamed that there were two pirate ships sending boarding parties. The crew cowered in fear, but the captain, calm as ever bellowed, "Bring me my red shirt!" And once again the battle was won.

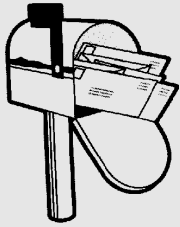
Weary from the battles, the men sat around on deck that night recounting the days occurrences when an ensign looked to the captain and asked, "Sir, why did you call for your red shirt before the battle?" The Captain, giving the ensign a look that only a captain can give, exhorted, "If I am wounded in battle, the red shirt does not show the wound and thus, you men will continue to fight unafraid." The men sat in silence marvelling at the courage of such a man.

As dawn came the next morning, the lookout screamed that there were ten pirate ships, all with boarding parties on their way. The men became silent and looked to the Captain, their leader, for his usual command. The Captain, calm as ever, bellowed, "Bring me my brown pants!"

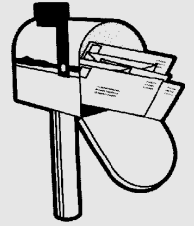
"CHANGE OF ADDRESS"

I have started having some problems with returned mail. Although there are very few "SNOW BIRDS" in our group, there are some former crewmembers with summer and winter addresses. There just isn't any simple way to automatically update my data base file to correspond with your move dates. Additionally, some crewmembers have moved between the first and second newsletter. Their copy of the newsletter with reunion information was consequently returned. The simple solution is that you must advise me of your change of address. Without this information, your mail will be returned to me and discarded.

Patrol Gunboat Association



FROM THE MAILBAG



On this page, I want to print some of the comments that I have received from shipmates who either call or write to me. Due to space restrictions, I cannot include all of these comments. I will include those for which I have space in the current publishing period.

- ☐ **From Shipmate Skip MacMichael {PG-89 & 90}:** While "Gunboat Riders" has a nice ring, an alternative would be "Rough Riders" -- everyone would know what you meant...
- ☐ **From Shipmate David W. Davis {PG-93}:** Thanks for the great web page...it brings back memories.
- ☐ **From Shipmate Gerald Weiss {PG-84}:** You've done a very commendable job with this project. I've communicated with J. Jacques after 30 years as a result of your efforts. Thanks Again...
- ☐ **From Shipmate David Madaras {PG-84 & 101}:** I remember giving tours to other sailors who thought the ship was cool when we came steaming into port on the turbine.... Most got queasy on the tour (tied up to the pier).... Thanks for keeping the memory of us gunboaters alive. With as little info out there about us -- it almost seems like we never existed...
- ☐ **From Shipmate Paul Fortino {PG-97}:** What a pleasure to receive the materials for the Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion and the Gunboat Riders newsletter.
- ☐ **From Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. Admiral, USN (Ret.):** The Asheville Class of ships was one of our most successful. They had immense capabilities... With their guardian guns, I never had any doubts about our security. All the best wishes for a successful reunion.
- ☐ **From Shipmate Paul Bennett {PG-88}:** Thanks again for a great opportunity to meet old friends and shipmates. Fair Winds...
- ☐ **From Shipmate Coty Keller {PG-87}:** Thanks for tracking me down. Sign me up..... I look forward to getting the newsletter...
- ☐ **From Shipmate Michael Hirvela {PG-94}:** Seeing your ad brought back many memories of that little vessel. Some great, some not so great, but all wonderful to think about these years later.... Like the ol' Boats used to say, "Happiness is footprints on the bulkhead."
- ☐ **From Shipmate Dave Sheldon {PG-92}:** The WEB Site is great! It was sure a surprise to discover it.

FROM THE ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Please send originals or copies of Commissioning Programs, Change of Command Programs, or any ship photo's that you may have to the Association Historian. I am ready to set up files for each ship and staff that comprise the Association. Include your name, address and phone number and e-mail address so that I may annotate each item with it's source. Please send any items that you wish to donate to:

Dave Donaldson
2603 Woodcock road
Sequim, WA 98382
(360) 683-5268
e-mail: rctfdd@tenforward.com

The Supreme Commander

Following are names of **Patrol Gunboat Shipmates** that have met the Supreme Commander. As this information is made available, I will include it in the following newsletter.

Shipmate:	Ship:	Departed
Delbert A. Blair	USS Antelope	03/08/92
Jerry R. Bailey	USS Crockett	
Jeffrey R. Beinbrink	USS Antelope	1995
Michael Burris	USS Welch	
C. M. Costello	USS Surprise	
Ralph Gayler	USS Ready	
Edward B. Gregson	USS Antelope	
Richard T. Kaminski	USS Tacoma	1981
Patrick R. O'Harrow	USS Tacoma	
Richard L. Sellers	USS Surprise	

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

VOLUME 1 - NUMBER 3

POST REUNION EDITION 1998

Terry W. McManuels 1673 Kilt Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 479-2261

1998 POST REUNION EDITION PEORIA, ILLINOIS

The first annual Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion was a success. What a great time, that just about says it all.

For the statisticians in the group, our attendance in Peoria included 68 Shipmates plus their guests with a total of 112 at the Banquet Dinner. We were represented by at least one shipmate from 15 of the 17 Patrol Gunboats plus two former Coastal Squadron



Three crewmembers. My wife and I arrived at the hotel on Tuesday, and the first thing I did was see the old stewburner from the Canon. I hope I aged as well as Al Onyika did. Things couldn't have started better.

The only problem was that there were many things that had to be done and I had to excuse myself and start taking care of business. We did get to spend a lot of time with Al and his wife, Hulda, later on. Tuesday was spent meeting the hotel staff, finding our hospitality room, taking the boxes of hats, cups, souvenirs and memorabilia to our room. After that we made a trip to the store for soft drinks, a couple of carts full of chips, pretzels, cheese curls and other snacks for the hospitality room. We were all set up and the beer was cold in time for our official opening at 12:00 noon on Wednesday. My father, Paul, handled much of the registration, passing out individual packages with tour and meal tickets as people checked in. My wife, Nancy, made certain that each crewmember got a free coffee mug and souvenir when they checked

in as well as a chance to buy raffle table tickets and get a Patrol Gunboat Reunion ball cap. Registration continued on into the evening followed by a free wine and cheese buffet provided by the hotel. Most people spent the remainder of the evening in the hospitality room getting reacquainted. A few of us braved the city streets and participated in "A Taste of Peoria", an annual event put on by the local Convention and Visitors Bureau, where many of the local restaurants set up small concession stands in the streets and offer samples of their specialties at a token price. All the while, two live bands played for most of the evening. I would like to take credit for this, but it was a coincidence that it took place on our first night in Peoria.

The weather cooperated with us on Thursday when we visited the Botanical Gardens. Lunch at Old Country Buffet was great and there was plenty of it, and finally the Illinois Antiques Center Mall. I think everyone that went there was amazed by the fact that many of the things on display were things that we played with when we were kids. I still can't understand how these things can be called antiques. I guess time does indeed move on, whether we like it or not.

Friday was the city tour of old Peoria where we had to "Hurry Up and Slow Down". The tour was great, and the tour guide was most entertaining. Lunch at River Station was exceptional, and the Wheels O' Time Museum was something that I will remember for a long time. If classic automobiles impress you, this was the place to see them. There was also a collection of antique clocks that was absolutely amazing. The Friday Night Buffet was one of the best buffet dinners I have ever had. Afterward, we were entertained by Mr. Don Baker, who had more CD's than I have ever seen at one time.

Saturday started with our first business meeting. I have included an overview of that meeting in this special edition newsletter. Next came the tour to Wildlife Prairie Park. For a while there I thought that the weather was going to be a problem. It rained the entire way to the park.

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Patrol Gunboat Association

BUSINESS MEETING, August 15, 1998 - Peoria, IL

The 1998 Business Meeting of the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association was held on Saturday morning, August 15, 1998, at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria, IL. There were an estimated 102 crewmembers and guests in attendance.

Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Terry W. McManuels at 8:30 am. A short introduction was followed by a quick review of where our membership stands numbers wise. We had 464 "Regular" members, 792 "Unknown", 8 "Deceased", and numerous "Honorary" members as of the date of the business meeting.

Financial Report: A motion was made and seconded to nominate Richard Smoktunowicz as Association Auditor. That motion was carried. As of July 21, 1998 we had \$443.00 in donations and \$810.00 in 50 - 50 ticket sales. We had \$3488.69 in expenses prior to the reunion. All receipts from raffle ticket sales, sales of hats and coffee cups as well as a final financial statement from Armed Forces Reunions will be reconciled and forwarded to the Association Auditor. A final fiscal year report will be published in the appropriate newsletter. A motion was made and seconded that the Association start collecting dues at a rate of \$20.00 per year for all regular members. Honorary members and widows of deceased crewmembers will be carried without dues. That motion was carried.

50 - 50 Drawing: A motion was made and seconded to pay three prizes in the 50 - 50 drawing, with the first prize being 50 percent of the prize, second place 30 percent and third place 20 percent. That motion was carried.

Membership Status: The Association membership will be identified as follows. **STATUS "RP"** - Those regular members that have responded to the membership dues requirement of \$20.00 per year and paid their 1998 Annual Dues. These members will receive all newsletters and other correspondence regarding association activities. **STATUS "RNP"** - Those members that have not responded to the membership dues requirement. This group is informed, by mail, that they will receive information only one time per year. That is accomplished in the Special Reunion Edition of the newsletter which advises them of the upcoming reunion and gives the shipmate an opportunity to rejoin our ranks and make corrections to their file. **STATUS "M"** - Status "M" which is the "MISSING PERSONS" list. This list currently holds the names of 781 former crewmembers. **STATUS "D"** - Status "D" which is our deceased shipmates. I would appreciate your input regarding crewmembers that have passed away. As you may have noticed, we have a column in the Newsletter called "Supreme Commander". In it, we share the information on our Departed Shipmates. Currently, I have identified 12 deceased crewmembers. The following members are carried without dues. They receive all association correspondence (less 50-50 tickets). **Status "H"** - for our Honorary members (Armed Forces Reunions Staff). **Status "A"** - for an Associate Member (ADM Zumwalt). **Status "W"** - for the widows of deceased shipmates. **Status "G"** - for a few Guest Members (Annual Reunion Principals, hotel staff). Guest members will be purged following the respective reunion. Your membership status will be printed on all correspondence in the future.

464 - Status "Regular" which comprises my total mailing list for all correspondence. Of these 464 in file, some are duplicate names such as those shipmates fortunate to serve on more than one PG. These numbers break down as follows:

Ship	Number	Ship	Number	Ship	Number
USS ANTELOPE	59	USS DEFIANCE	13	USS SURPRISE	12
USS ASHEVILLE	29	USS DOUGLAS	17	USS TACOMA	45
USS BEACON	5	USS GALLUP	16	USS WELCH	19
USS BENICIA	13	USS GRAND	27	UNKNOWN	20
USS CANON	37	RAPIDS	24	USS GRAHAM COUNTY	7
USS CHEHALIS	6	USS GREEN BAY	32	SQUADRONS /	11
USS CROCKETT	54	USS MARATHON	46	DIVISIONS	23
		USS READY		HONORARY	

1999, Washington, DC: Our 1999 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion will be held in Washington, DC in August, 1999. We have now signed a contract with the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel in Falls Church, Virginia. The special group room rate will be \$89.00 per night for a single, double, triple or quad. The dates will be from **Wednesday, August 11th through Sunday, August 15th**. As usual, all reservation information will be in the Spring Issue of "Gunboat Riders" newsletter.

Reunion Itinerary: Mr. McManuels discussed his feelings on hotels and reunion activities. Choosing to have quality reunions, activities were scheduled on as many days as possible. The intention was not to overwhelm, but to provide an adequate amount of entertainment during the stay. This included arranging tours that included meals with them. While this makes them a bit more expensive, the plan was to minimize expenses during the reunion. On Wednesday, all meals were on your own. Since Wednesday will usually be an early check in day, this should be no problem. Thursday, breakfast and dinner were on your own, lunch was included with the tour. Friday, breakfast was on your own, lunch and dinner were prearranged (Tour and Buffet Dinner). Saturday, breakfast was on your own, as was lunch. This was due primarily to the business meeting and not knowing how long it would run. Dinner, of course was the scheduled Banquet Dinner. Since most of the tours included meals, they were rather expensive, but this allowed you to minimize your out of pocket expenses after your arrival.

1998 BUSINESS MEETING NOTES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Patrol Gunboat Association

BUSINESS MEETING, Continued

Armed Forces Reunions: Mr. McManuels made arrangements with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. in Norfolk, VA to assist in some of the tasks required to arrange a successful reunion. Although the association will make all of the important decisions, Armed Forces will continue to arrange tours, the rental of tour buses and to act as the collection point for all dinner and tour reservations. As the Association grows, the myriad of tasks required to have these reunions grows also. Those that attended this year's reunion received among other things, personalized name tags, pre-printed tour tickets, meal tickets and a printed itinerary of all scheduled events. These items were prepared by the staff at Armed Forces Reunions. All of the contracts necessary for the reunion were prepared and signed by Armed Forces. The negotiations for the tours, busses and all off site meals were all a result of the efforts of the Armed Forces Staff. A special "Thank You" to Susan Mitchell and Ted Dey, without their efforts, this reunion would not have taken place.

Credits: Special recognition was given to Mr. Paul D. McManuels, who made certain that all attendee's received their check-in packages with name tags, meal and tour tickets, assisted in preparing the necessary reports to be sent back to Armed Forces and interacted with the hotel staff anytime there was a problem. Nancy McManuels was recognized for her efforts in the sales of raffle tickets and making certain that everyone got the chance to receive their coffee mugs and ball caps. Recognition was given to the U. S. Naval Reserve Center Color Guard for providing a detail to perform the Colors Cerimony at the Saturday Banquet.

Assistants: Paul Bennet was voted in as the Master of Ceremonies for the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner. Thomas Aiello was voted in as the Association Chaplain. His heartfelt comments at the Banquet Dinner were appreciated. Both Tom and Paul have volunteered to assist with the Banquet Dinner in 1999.

Comments: A discussion was held regarding the location of future reunions. Mr. McManuels explained that the current plan is to hold the 1999 reunion on the East Coast. The following year, 2000, the current plan is to set up the reunion toward the Midwest, possibly in the St. Louis area. Following discussions on future reunion locations, the meeting was adjourned.

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then it stopped long enough for us to have a pleasant visit, and then the rain started again for the bus ride back to the hotel. The Banquet Dinner was the highlight of the reunion for me. Our guest speaker was Mr. Thomas Maher, from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. Our entertainment for the evening was live band



music from "Three in a Pocket".

Sunday, we said our farewells until next year. It was truly a great reunion. I think all who attended had a good time.

For those of you interested in statistics, the first reunion was attended by members and guests from 31 States. This broke down as follows:

Alabama - 1, Arizona - 2, California - 7, Colorado - 1, Connecticut - 1, Florida - 4, Georgia - 4, Iowa - 1, Idaho - 1, Illinois - 8, Indiana - 1, Louisiana - 1, Massachusetts - 1, Maryland - 3, Michigan - 3, Minnesota - 1, Mississippi - 1, Nevada - 1, Nebraska - 1, New Jersey - 1, New York - 3, Ohio - 1, Oklahoma - 1, Pennsylvania - 1, Rhode Island - 1, South Carolina - 1, Texas - 1, Virginia - 6, Washington - 2, Wisconsin - 3, West Virginia - 2.

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Credits

Credit must be given to those that assisted in our very successful 1998 reunion at the Holiday Inn City Center hotel in Peoria, Illinois.

First and foremost, I must thank my wife Nancy who has put up with my constant chatter about this project, cheerfully accepted the responsibility of seeing to it that everyone got their coffee mugs and ball caps, and made certain that the Hospitality room was always well stocked. To my father Paul, who ran the registration table and made certain that everyone received their registration package along with meal and tour tickets.

Mr. Harold Wilson and the hotel staff at the Holiday Inn did an excellent job. The meals provided by the catering department beautifully prepared and delicious.

Thanks to Susan Mitchell of Armed Forces Reunions, Inc for her expertise in setting up the tours, preparing tour and meal tickets, name tags and itineraries for the association.

**Patrol Gunboat Association
Post Reunion Edition, 1998**

Volume 1, Special Edition

Patrol Gunboat Association

The following are excerpts from comments made by Terry McManuels following the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner. I am including these comments in this newsletter because several crewmembers asked for a copy.

Here we are celebrating the first annual reunion of Patrol Gunboat Shipmates. At least twenty years have passed since the decommissioning of the last of the PG Fleet, ships that were deployed to Viet Nam where they served with distinction, many in actual combat. Ships that served in both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets, homeported in CONUS, on Guam and Naples, Italy. Over twenty years of Gunboat camaraderie is represented this evening by 31 states, shipmates and guests for a total attendance of 118...

We have Officers and Enlisted men, we have single term and career sailors, some still active duty, some reserve, many retired. Back in April 1997, I began this project because as I have said many times, during my career in the Navy, my tour of duty on CANON was the best tour that I had in 26 years. We were truly a family on CANON. From the comments that I have received from many of you, you feel the same way. The neatest thing since popcorn, that is the way I described duty on a PG. The PG's distinguished themselves in every commitment, they were retired from active service with the satisfaction that they and their crews put forth their finest effort serving the United States Navy and the people of the United States. Many of you have sent me items that you have saved and cherished for these past 20 plus years. I have received original photographs, commissioning and decommissioning booklets, copies of plans of the day, I even had one shipmate bring me an original ship's ball cap. This tells me that I am not alone in my feeling of affection for the PG's. As far as the crews of these ships, let me give you some examples of the success that they have had subsequent to their PG duty.

Currently, my data file holds the names of 16 Admirals that at one time were officers on the PG's. LTJG Dan Bowler is now Admiral Dan Bowler, currently Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Five, embarked on Dwight D. Eisenhower, as the Battle Group Commander; David Robinson, USS CANON and USS READY, retired, Vice Admiral; Admiral Rodney Rempt, USS ANTELOPE, still on active duty; Admiral Vernon Clark and Admiral Scott Fry, still on active duty; Admiral Gary Roughead, now assigned to the U. S. Naval Academy, still on active duty. This tells me that while I understand that these officers were obviously top performers to begin with, they were obviously the best of the best. The performance of the enlisted men from the PG's is equally impressive. Two thirds of the enlisted men that I have located went on to do twenty year careers or more. If you keep in mind that Congress has mandated an end strength limit of not more than one percent of the Navy's Active Duty enlisted personnel can be in paygrade E-9, and not more than three percent can make up paygrades E-8 and E-9 combined, it is amazing that of the 440 crewmembers that I have located,

I have identified 27 Chief Petty Officers, 23 Senior Chief Petty Officers, and 31 Master Chief Petty Officers, two who were Force Master Chiefs, two Fleet Master Chiefs, and 7 Command Master Chiefs. I have identified 7 enlisted men that went on to become officers. One of them, HM-1 David Wheeler from CANON is now CAPTAIN Wheeler, Commanding Officer, US Naval Hospital, GUAM. I have heard that the enlisted men were hand selected for duty on the PG's. Just speaking for myself, I don't know when or where this selection process took place, and if it did, I must have slipped through the cracks. While I am proud to say that I am one of the ones that had a successful career, making it to one of those 7 Command Master Chief billets before I retired, when I went on the CANON, I was a textbook sailor, but definitely not from the pages of the Blue Jackets Manual. I was a hard steamer, loved to party, frequently bent the rules or ignored them altogether. By the time I left CANON, I knew that I wanted to make the Navy a career. How much of that was due to a work ethic that I developed on CANON, how much was from the leadership of the Officers and Chiefs on the ship, and how much was due to the love of a good woman, who knows. The point is that for whatever reason, the Patrol Gunboats produced sailors who in many cases went on to absolutely stellar careers, both officer and enlisted. Perhaps that was because when you are only one of twenty eight men onboard, you learn to make the best of what you have. We certainly missed many of the luxuries that were available on the larger ships.

I must say that while I had a wonderful career, the CANON was one of the brightest highlights. I would like to see the PG Reunions become a "Red Letter" day on many of your calendars. We sailed the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea. Crewmembers have travelled many miles to be here. With the spirit of camaraderie that we enjoyed when we were in the PG Fleet, let us continue our journey in these closing years of the 20th Century and into the 21st. I feel that it is important that we carry on the memory, not only of our days onboard the Patrol Gunboats, but the purpose of why many of us were in the Service in the first place.

I would like to give thanks to the folks that have made this a most memorable reunion. To Paul Bennett who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and to David Spriggs who assisted with the financial audit. . . . To our ships Chaplain, Thomas Aiello who provided some inspirational comments. And to my Parents, Paul and Faye McManuels, who encouraged me to make this reunion happen, and provided me with much of the corporate knowledge as well as computer software necessary to set this up. To my wife Nancy, who has probably felt that she is once again a WestPac Widow, who listens to my constant chatter about the Reunion, both on and off the telephone, is my proof reader on all of the newsletters, corrects my grammar and provides more help than I am entitled to. A special thank-you to Thomas Maher for being our guest speaker tonight and to the Peoria Naval Reserve Color Guard.